Note for Dennis, Darienne

From: Holt, Barry

Date: Mon, Mar 21, 1994 8:37 AM

Subject: Janofsky/Malik

To: Collamore, Thomas; Dennis, Darienne; Fuller, Craig; Han, Vic; Merlo, Ellen; Parrish, Steve; Rolli, Nicholas

I had a long conversation with Mike this weekend, re: his story on Malik and the assertion that we have nicotine technology that Malik helped develop which we killed after firing him.

Here's what I told him on background/off the record:

--Vic, STeve, Chuck and I had a long briefing session on Friday to make sure we understood the situation from Richmond R&D and with Jerry Libin (outside counsel who conducted the Malik investigation)...i didn't mention Richard Lerner at this point.

--I told him everyone was absolutely convinced that whatever research Malik was doing was ongoing and never killed. In fact, a report is being prepared currently on the findings...it will eventually be patented and put in the public domain.

--I even went so far, in layman's terms, to explain what I knew about the research (chemical vs genetic) to demonstrate that I was not leading him astray.

--I also went through all the craziness surrounding his "star witness"--the threats, his paranoia, the fact that he was very adequately compensation at time of layoff, and generally the unstable behavior he has demonstrated.

--I wound up by saying..."Mike, I think you better think long and hard before you take whatever this guys word for what went on. If he told you we have suppressed or killed his research in any way...you were lied to!"

--Although he didn't go off and say he was killing the story...he did say he would go back to "his sources" and be absolutely sure he's got the story right.

--I suggested he talk to his editors and the Times attorneys before putting this in print.

He appreciated my candor.

I told him this week was not a good time for anyone to meet with him. He said he normally would not be in a rush to write but he was going to take two weeks off for vacation. He did not mention the hearings at all.

He would let me know if he could put it off a few weeks. I suggested that it was sort of an "evergreen" story.

Minor progress...but one never knows with him or the Times.

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